

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 17 are pending in the present application.

Claims 2, 5, 6, 9, 10, 14 and 15 are cancelled.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the subject matter of claim 6, claim 8 is amended to recite the subject matter of claim 10, and claim 13 is amended to recite the subject matter of claim 15.

Claims 7, 11 and 16 are amended to change their dependencies in view of the cancelled claims.

Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. 4,052,527 to Pastor et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the subject matter of claim 6. Accordingly, present claim 1 is not anticipated by Pastor et al.

Since claim 3 depends from claim 1, claim 3 also is not anticipated by Pastor et al.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. 4,052,527 to Pastor et al.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. 6,204,306 to Chabreck et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 5 and 9 are cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection with respect to these claims is moot.

Claims 1 and 8 are amended to recite the subject matter of claims 6 and 10, respectively. Accordingly, present claims 1 and 8 are not anticipated by Chabreck et al.

Since claims 3 and 4 depend from amended claim 1, they also are not anticipated by Chabreck et al.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. 6,204,306 to Chabreck et al.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. 2004/0116549 A1 to Visconti et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the subject matter of claim 6. Accordingly, present claim 1 is not anticipated by Visconti et al.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Visconti et al.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. 2003/0236425 A1 to Herr et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 5 is cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection with respect to this claim is moot.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the subject matter of claim 6. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Herr et al.

Since claim 3 depends from claim 1, it also is not anticipated by Herr et al.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. 2003/0235425 to Herr et al.

Claims 1, 3 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. 2004/0033317 A1 to Baudin et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 5 is cancelled. Accordingly, the rejection with respect to this claim is moot.

Claim 1 is amended to recite the subject matter of claim 6. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Baudin et al.

Since claim 3 depends from claim 1, it also is not anticipated by Baudin et al.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. 2004/0033317 A1 to Baudin et al.

Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. 6,204,306 to Chabreck et al. in view of U.S. 5,106,720 to Mueller et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 12 depends from amended claim 8. Accordingly, claim 12 is patentable over Chabreck et al. and Mueller et al.

Claim 13 was amended to recite the subject matter of claim 15. Accordingly, claim 13 is patentable over Chabreck et al. and Mueller et al.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. 6,204,306 to Chabreck et al. in view of U.S. 5,106,720 to Mueller et al.

Claim 17 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. 6,204,306 to Chabreck et al. and U.S. 5,106,720 to Mueller et al. as applied to claim 13 and further in view of U.S. 2003/0188886 to Fey et al. and U.S. 4,179,800 to Takaba et al. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 17 depends from amended claim 13. Accordingly, claim 17 is patentable over Chabreck et al., Mueller et al., Fey et al. and Takaba et al.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. 6,204,306 to Chabreck et al. and U.S. 5,106,720 to Mueller et al. as applied to claim 13 and further in view of U.S. 2003/0188886 to Fey et al. and U.S. 4,179,800 to Takaba et al.

Claim 13 was objected to because of an informality. Claim 13 is amended to place a period at the end.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection of claim 13.

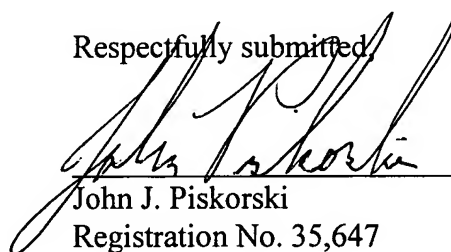
Claims 6, 7, 10, 11, 15 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent from including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 6, 10 and 15 were cancelled and the subject matter of these claims was incorporated into independent claims 1, 8 and 13. The dependencies of claims 7, 11 and 16 were changed to depend from amended claims 1, 8 and 13, respectively.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection of claims 7, 11 and 16.

Favorable consideration and allowance of claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 17 are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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